

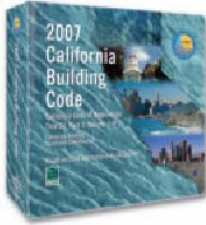
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## **CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE**

SACRAMENTO—Agency Secretary Rosario Marin announces the publication of the new 2007 California Building Standards Code scheduled for July 4, 2007. The new codes will become effective for Californians on January 1, 2008.

"California is again leading the way in the latest construction technological advances with its publication of the 2007 California Building Standards Code. Improved standards for safe building, fire prevention, access for persons with disabilities, and energy efficiency will now become reality for designers, builders, and regulators throughout California. They pave the way for further advances, particularly development of cutting-edge green building standards to meet the challenges of global warming identified as a critical issue by the governor" said Rosario Marin, Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency and chair of the Commission..

The Commission's Executive Director, David Walls, agreed, saying, "The long-awaited publication of California's new building standards culminates an intense two-year effort by state agencies and the Building Standards Commission, but the commission and the state agencies are already moving forward with green building guidelines for the next code adoption cycle."

The latest standards will increase ISO's Building Code Effectiveness Grading for California communities, which insurers can use to grant premium credits for buildings constructed and enforced under the latest codes. California communities have been downgraded in recent years because California codes have not been updated.

The new California Building Standards Code contains twelve parts that incorporate public health, life safety, and general welfare standards used in the design and construction of buildings in California. Within attractive, eye-catching bindings, these parts incorporate the latest national standards in the International Building and Fire Codes, National Electrical Code, and the Uniform Mechanical and Plumbing Codes. California amendments to these codes enhance the public health and safety standards for homes, public schools, and hospitals as well as other occupancies throughout the state.

Fire and panic safety standards are maintained at a high level for California, and include additional wildland-urban interface fire protection standards for vulnerable structures located in areas prone to wildfires such as those recently experienced in Lake Tahoe. Access to persons with disabilities remains a high priority in California, and the standards now include federal Department of Justice certification requirements, which ensure compliance with federal regulations. California's energy efficiency standards continue to be among the highest in the nation and lay the foundation for California's green building code.

Additionally, the standards incorporate the latest seismic safety standards ensuring that buildings will be designed and constructed utilizing the latest technology to reduce loss in the event of an earthquake.

A formal unveiling of the 2007 California Building Standards Code took place at the California Code Summit July 19, 2007, held at the California Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the new building codes, their publishers, and the California Building Standards Commission, please visit the California Building Standards Commission online at [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)